



Talk 2 Me

Preschool Speech and Language ~ Early
Identification ~ Intervention ~ Education

Connections Early Years Family Centre

Children First

John McGivney Children's Centre

Nursery Rhymes and Fingerplays



Learning songs and rhymes will encourage language development in your child!
Songs and rhymes are repetitive and predictable so your child is encouraged to join in!

Children will learn:

- New words and sentence pattern
- To listen and imitate
- To express thoughts and feelings through actions, facial expressions and words

Strategies:

- Be sure to use lots of expression in your face, body and voice to catch and keep your child's attention.
- Pick repetitive songs with gestures/actions so there are lots of ways your child can join in. Sing the song a few times to familiarize your child to the words and actions.
- When you are singing, pause at the high points in the song to give your child a chance to fill in the word/action.
- When paused, lean in and look expectantly so they can see they need to say or do something - If your child does not respond, you can begin the gesture or word to help cue them.
- Continue on with the song whether or not your child responds.

Example:

When singing 'The Wheels on the Bus', say "The wheels on the bus go..." then pause, lean in and look expectantly for your child to respond. You can start to do the action and/or begin to say the word to give your child a cue. If you continue to pause at the same place in the song, your child will learn to take their turn by using a gesture/sound/word.

Songs

The Wheels on the Bus
The Itsy Bitsy Spider
Ring Around the Rosie
Slippery Fish
Hokey Pokey
Open Shut Them
Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
One, Two, Three, Four, Five
I'm a Little Teapot
Head and Shoulders
Clap Your Hands
Sticky Sticky Bubble Gum

Five Little Monkeys

For more strategies and information regarding how to use nursery rhymes to encourage language development, visit <http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Fun-Activities/How-to-Sing-with-Toddlers-The-Hanen-Way.aspx>